1964 press conference in Hoover's office, for selected women reporters only, in which the Director twice blurted out the remark that Martin Luther King was "the most notorious liar in the country." DeLoach slipped Hoover a note, asking him to make it clear that this comment was off the record, but the Director sent the note back. When asked by one of the reporters for clarification, Hoover said his remark about King was definitely for attribution. DeLoach tried two more notes, but the advice was rejected, and finally Hoover said aloud, "I will not. . . . DeLoach is trying to tell me to take that off the record, but I will not." Hoover's words about King were, of course, widely reported and served to aggravate the FBI's already mixed reputation among black people.

By mid-1970, as he approached his fiftieth birthday, DeLoach had resigned himself to the fact that Hoover would probably never step aside voluntarily, and he had decided that he was not willing to chance the controversy that might come from being Hoover's replacement if the old man were forced out. Donald Kendall, chairman of the board of Pepsico, Inc., a prominent Republican and a friend of President Nixon, had offered DeLoach a job previously, and DeLoach had said that if Hoover were still Director when he turned fifty, he would accept. Now he decided that he was no longer willing to stay at a salary of $38,000 a year with seven children to support and considerable debts to pay.

DeLoach broke the news to Hoover six weeks before his birthday and was greeted with utter disbelief. "I thought you were one who would never leave me," said the Director in a conference that DeLoach clocked at two hours and forty-seven minutes. Unable to persuade DeLoach to change his mind, Hoover reacted characteristically, cutting him off for a couple of weeks, refusing to talk with him or send him mail. He eventually relented, however, and gave DeLoach a warm sendoff, including a gift of a set of gold buttons. Later he would tell DeLoach he was welcome to return to the fold anytime.

There is another theory of DeLoach's retirement – that he had come very close to some brushes with scandal and wanted to keep them from surfacing. It is not that he was ever formally under investigation or that there was any incriminating proof against him, but the rumor mill was kept especially busy in 1970 with tales about DeLoach. From his earliest days in the FBI, he had been hard up for money. People who rode in car pools with him in Washington back when DeLoach was liaison with the Pentagon say that he was sometimes caught claiming for mileage reimbursement even when he drove there in someone else's car; and later it was claimed that he double-billed

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the Bureau and the American Legion for some of his travels. At one point, a wealthy Florida builder was reported to be picking up some of the mortgage payments on DeLoach's home; but he said this was merely a "low-interest loan" from a friend. DeLoach came under the scrutiny of a federal grand jury in Baltimore early in 1970, after it was discovered that he had frequent social contact with Victor Frenkil, a contractor under investigation for alleged efforts to bring pressure on the Architect of the Capitol to make extra payments to him for construction of an underground garage for Congress. (The grand jury said later in a presentment that it had wanted to indict Frenkil for conspiracy to defraud the United States, but Attorney General John Mitchell forbade U.S. Attorney Stephen H. Sachs, a holdover Democrat from the Johnson administration, to sign the indictment.) According to a memorandum that DeLoach submitted to the federal prosecutors in Baltimore to explain his relations with Frenkil, the contractor had pestered him relentlessly as part of his efforts to win new friends in Washington; some of their contacts were also apparently related to Frenkil's commission to construct the new FBI Academy at Quantico. (When an agent from the Baltimore Field Office attempted to interview Frenkil in connection with an earlier case, his SAC had a phone call from DeLoach's office within an hour asking why.) An article detailing some of these controversies concerning DeLoach was written for the *Los Angeles Times* in mid-1970, but it did not run, presumably on the grounds that he was about to leave government and start a new life in the business world.

Before DeLoach left, he did one last important favor for Hoover: he persuaded Attorney General John Mitchell to endorse the Director's opposition to a new domestic intelligence program that was being pushed by the White House and by Assistant FBI Director William C. Sullivan. Then Hoover named Sullivan to replace DeLoach as the number three man in the FBI, just behind Tolson.

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Bill Sullivan was as rough as Deke DeLoach was smooth. Or so it seemed. Although his personal appearance had been questioned in some of his earliest field office assignments, Sullivan had managed to climb up through the Bureau ranks without paying any of the attention that most of Hoover's top men did to being neat and fastidious. His ties were often spotted, his shirt collars curled, and his suits sometimes looked as if he had slept in them overnight. His personal style of management and organization was chaotic; he moved frenetically and